

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.:10/652,621

Confirmation No.: 1036

Applicants : Geun-Chul LEE

Filed : September 2, 2003 Group Art Unit: 2861

Customer No. : 38209 Examiner: Nguyen, Lamson D.

For: METHOD AND AN APPARATUS TO CONTROL PRINTING OPERATIONS IN AN
INKJET PRINTER

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.104**

Sir:

The examiner provided a Statement of Reason for Allowance in the Notice of Allowance and Fee Due May 30, 2006, mailed February 28, 2006, in which the Examiner indicated that the primary reasons for allowance for claims 1-6 are the inclusion of a method of controlling a printing operation comprising the steps of obtaining feature value of fed printing sheet when the printing command is applied, comparing the obtained value with the registered feature values, and determining the fed printing sheets when the obtained feature value corresponds to the registered feature values. It is these limitations, either alone or combined, that have not been taught, found, or suggested by prior art.

The primary reasons for allowance for claim 7 are the inclusion of a computer readable recording medium comprising a second program that determines the kind of the currently fed printing sheet based on the feature of the currently fed printing sheet with reference to a predetermined identification table when it is determined in a first program that the currently fed printing sheet does not belong to the kind of the printing sheet registered by a user, and a third program that creates a control data to control an operation of a head driver according to the kind

of the currently fed printing sheet determined by the first and second programs. It is these limitations, either alone or combined, that have not been taught, found, or suggested by prior art.

The primary reasons for allowance for claim 8 are the inclusion of an apparatus to control a printing operation comprising a system controller registering one or more kinds of user printing sheets along with features values of the user printing sheets and determining a kind of a fed printing sheet using a feature value of the fed printing sheet provided from the sensor and with reference to one of the table stored in storage and an identification table included when a printing command is applied. It is these limitations, either alone or combined, that have not been taught, found, or suggested by prior art.

The primary reasons for allowance for claims 9 and 11 are the inclusion of a method of controlling a printing operation comprising the steps of sensing a currently fed printing sheet together with at least one unique feature value thereof to be registered, applying a printing sheet registration command, and registering and storing the sensed at least one unique feature value and kind of printing sheet corresponding to the at least one unique feature value. It is these limitations, either alone or combined, that have not been taught, found, or suggested by prior art.

The primary reasons for allowance for claims 14-17 are the inclusion of an apparatus to control a printing operation comprising a system controller to register kinds of user printer sheets designated by a user together with at least one feature value thereof, and to determine whether a fed printing sheet belongs to the registered kind according to a feature value of the fed printing sheet, and if not, then determine the kind of the fed printing sheet based on the feature value of the fed printing sheet by referring to an identification table therein. It is these limitations, either alone or combined, that have not been taught, found, or suggested by prior art.

The primary reasons for allowance for claims 19-20 and 22 are the inclusion of an apparatus to control a printing operation comprising a registration storage unit to register one or more unregistered printing sheet types and to store the associated one or more unique feature values therein; and a controller to having access to both the registration storage unit and a pre-stored identification table, which is different from the registration storage unit and identifies pre-stored printing sheet types associated with pre-stored feature values. It is these limitations,

either alone or combined, that have not been taught, found, or suggested by prior art.

The primary reasons for allowance for claim 21 are the inclusion of a method of controlling a printing operation comprising the steps of determining whether a sheet type of the current printing sheet has been registered in the specified printer by determining whether the feature value that corresponds to the current sheet is stored in a registration storage unit of the specified printer; and retrieving print control data to print the current printing sheet from the registration storage unit when it is determined that the sheet type thereof has been registered in the specified printer, and retrieving print control data to print the current printing sheet from a general printing sheet identification storage when it is determined that the sheet type thereof has not been registered in the specified printer. It is these limitations, either alone or combined, that have not been taught, found, or suggested by prior art.

The primary reasons for allowance for claim 23 are the inclusion of a computer readable recording medium comprising a second executable code to control a registration storage unit to register the one or more unregistered printing sheet types with one or more associated unique feature values; and a third executable code to access at least one of the registration storage unit and a pre-stored identification table, which is different from the registration storage unit and identifies pre-stored printing sheet types associated with pre-stored feature values. It is these limitations, either alone or combined, that have not been taught, found, or suggested by prior art.

As specified in MPEP 1302.14, "care must be taken to ensure that such reasons are accurate, precise, and do not place unwarranted interpretations, whether broad or narrow, upon the claims." It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's Statement is not an accurate quote with respect to each of the allowed claims, and instead, raises "possible misinterpretations, and possible estoppel effects" (MPEP 1302.04) and accordingly, should be disregarded.

The Examiner's statement appears to unnecessarily limit the claims to, for example, each of the Examiner's reasons for allowing the claims states language of the claims different than the actual recitation provided within the claims themselves. While being useful in understanding the invention, the Examiner's comments could lead to an unwarranted and unnecessary narrowing interpretation of the claims. Therefore, it is further submitted that the claims should not be interpreted based on the Examiner's statement.

It is further submitted that the claims are not constrained by such device limitations and

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that the claims speaks for themselves as to what features are included therein and are their own best evidence as to the reasons for allowance of same.

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